

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

[0095] Pathogenic polyclonal B cell activation and immunoglobulin class switching to pathogenic autoantibodies is inhibited by binding molecules that specifically interfere with CD1 antigen, but do not activate signaling (blocking agents), or by molecules that bind to the T cell antigen receptor on T cells that recognize CD1. When CD1 mediated signaling is thus blocked, the T cell response is diminished, resulting in reduced polyclonal B cell activation and reduced immunoglobulin class switching to pathogenic autoantibodies.